mate the percentage of seizures thereof: Quantity in kilograms)

Name of drug	1985	1986	1987	1988 (upto September)
1. Opium	6.840	8.789	2,929	2.103
2. Heroin	761	2,621	2,747	2.376
3. Hashish (Charas)	10,312	18.909	14,769	14,124
4. Morphine	125	207	115	5
5. Ganja	66,314	60.619	53.920	31.380
6. Methaqualone	745	1.485	1.500	902

(c) and (d) Narcotics Control Bureau has been constituted for the purpose of effectively preventing and combating abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and illicit traffic therein under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. Besides the Narcotics Control Bureau, various State and Central enforcement agencies like the Customs and Central Excise Department, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, etc. have been empowered for search, seizure, arrest and conducting investigations. A scheme of expansion for the Bureau along with strengthening of its Headquarters office and 5 existing zonal units is under consideration. A scheme for modernisation of the Bureau including provision of computer network linking H. Qrs. with zonal units, provision of telecommunication net-work by means of wireless, provision of vehicles and modern surveillance equipment is also being taken up. This modernisation scheme would be implemented, *inter-alia*, from the grant of U.S. Dollar 7.5 million from the United Nation's Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

Recommendations of the Task Force on Credit Requirement of Powerlooms

*25. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of the Task Force appointed by the Central Government to go into the question of credit requirement of the powerlooms;

(b) what acion has been taken by the Central Government on each of its recommendations till date;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Task Force has recommended that the Central Government should draw a scheme for extending financial assistance to the cooperative societies towards share capital; and

(d) if so, what action the Central Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (d) Government of India had constituted a Task Force in May, 1987 to assess the existing flow of credit to the decentralised powerloom sector and to recommend measures on augmenting the same. The report is under consideration.

The major recommendations of the Task Force relate to working capital and modernisation requirements in the powerloom sector. The Task Force recommended (i) a credit outlay of Rs. 500 crores for working capital requirements in the first year to be increased @ 25 per cent compounded annually for subsequent periods upto 5 years, the requirements of 5th year being Rs. 1220 crores

and (ii) credit outlay of Rs. 50 crores for modernisations of pre-weaving co-operations and Rs. 150 crores weaving operations in the first year each of which to be increased @15 per cent compounded annually for subsequent periods upto five years. The respective recommended figures being Rs. 87 crores and Rs. 260 crores respectively in the terminal year. The Task Force recommended that these funds should be made available by way of institutional finance.

The other main recommendation of the Task Force is to encourage co-operative movement in the decentralised powerloom sector. The State Governments may make contribution to the share capital of powerloom co-operative societies so that funds could be made available to them from NABARD, IDBI, etc.

Appointment of chairman of STC and MMTC

*28. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Chairmen of the State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation are lying vacant for the last many months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not filling up the above vacancies in these prestigious undertakings; and

(c) by when these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The posts of Chairmen, STC and MMTC have been lying vacant since October, 1987 and September, 1987 respectively.

(b) and (c) Since both STC and MMTC are large State Trading Companies with huge trade turnover and charged with responsibilities of importing essential commodities and industrial raw materials, only professionally competent persons could be appointed to head these organisations. The appointment process in such cases takes some time. The Public Enterprises Selection Board has recommended a panel of names for these posts and recommendations of the Board are being processed to make the appointments on regular basis as early as possible.

Crash programme to tide over balance of payments position

*29. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the crash programme recently announced by Government to tide over the difficult balance of payments position; and

(b) how much foreign exchange is likely to be earned thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Special Action Plan for Balance of Payments turn-around drawn up by the Government aims at measures to generate additional exports, contain imports and augment foreign exchange flows through NRI Deposits|Bonds, additional direct|indirect investments and increased tourism receipts. It is designed to bridge the gap in foreign exchange reserves which in turn depend on the success in increasing export earnings and other flows from abroad.